

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12-14, 20, 21, 26-28, 34, 35, 40-42, 47-49, 54-56, 61, 62, 67-69, 74, 75, 80-82, and 87-89, as follows:

Claim 42 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s transported by consumers, each device ~~housing~~ containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housing~~s, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and

a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each device housing is a card.

C/ Claim 14 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 15 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 16 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein the store includes

a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 17 (original): The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further includes

an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 18 (original): The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further includes  
a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 19 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each first processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

Claim 20 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:  
sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network;  
receiving first signals, and  
the step, performed in one of the homes, of  
sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housing~~s, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and  
the step of

subsequently, moving the portable device housing to the store, and  
the step, performed in the store, of  
receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing, to send a  
telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 20 further including  
executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device housing.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 20 further including sending, in the  
telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal  
corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase  
signal corresponding to a product;  
receiving the purchase signal; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s transported by consumers, each device ~~housing~~ containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals

corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and

a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

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Claim 27 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 26 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 26 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 29 (original): The processing system of claim 26 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 30 (original): The processing system of claim 26 wherein the store further includes

a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the  
memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 31 (original): The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further  
includes

an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 32 (original): The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further  
includes

a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 33 (original): The processing system of claim 26 wherein each first  
processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

Claim 34 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of  
portable devices  ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes  
and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response  
to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a  
plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal  
including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address  
corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a

plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

receiving first signals, and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable device housing to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

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Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 34 further including  
executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device housing.

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Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 34 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

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Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 34 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of

receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and



determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
receiving the purchase signal; and  
determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
receiving a purchase signal; and  
determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices  ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing

system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing in the store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 40 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 40 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 43 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 44 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 45 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving the purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 46 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving a purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housing~~s, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable device ~~housing~~ in the store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 47 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 47 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 50 (original): The processing system of claim 47 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

C/ Claim 51 (original): The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 52 (original): The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving the purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 53 (original): The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving a purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

01  
Claim 54 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a first computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~ to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable device housing. In the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 54 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 54 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

el Claim 57 (original): The processing system of claim 54 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 58 (original): The processing system of claim 54 further including a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 59 (original): The processing system of claim 58 further including an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 60 (original): The processing system of claim 58 further including a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 61 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

① sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housing~~s, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable device ~~housing~~ to the store, and  
the step, performed in the store, of



receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The method of claim 61 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device housing.

Claim 63 (original): The method of claim 61 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 64 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 65 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
receiving the purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 66 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal  
corresponding to a product;  
receiving a purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal  
corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim-67 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a first  
computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~ each containing  
an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store with a first receiver that receives  
signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~ to send a telecommunications  
signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for  
receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network  
address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area  
communication links, the processing system comprising:

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circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each  
first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address  
corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a  
plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a  
respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby  
enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 67 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 67 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 70 (original): The processing system of claim 67 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 71 (original): The processing system of claim 67 further including a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 72 (original): The processing system of claim 67 further including an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

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Claim 73 (original): The processing system of claim 67 further including a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

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Claim 74 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

①  
sending, from a first computer, a first signal to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and  
the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housing~~s, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and  
the step of

subsequently, moving the portable device ~~housing~~ to the store, and  
the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

<sup>73</sup> Claim 75 (currently amended): The method of claim <sup>73</sup> 74 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device housing.

<sup>74</sup> Claim 76 (original): The method of claim <sup>73</sup> 74 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

<sup>75</sup> Claim 77 (original): The method of claim <sup>73</sup> 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of  
receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

<sup>76</sup> Claim 78 (original): The method of claim <sup>73</sup> 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
receiving the purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 79 (original): The method of claim 74 further including the steps,  
performed in the store, of  
generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal  
corresponding to a product;  
receiving a purchase signal; and  
determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal  
corresponds to the purchase signal.

01  
Claim 80 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a  
plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~ each containing an electronic memory, a store  
with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~  
to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal  
path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating  
network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the  
routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing  
system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each  
first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address  
corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a  
plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding  
to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the  
second computer to receive first signals; and

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes.

Claim 81 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 80 wherein each device housing is a card.

C1 Claim 82 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 80 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 83 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 84 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 85 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 86 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s each containing an electronic memory, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housing~~s to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the



routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes.

Claim 88 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 87 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 89 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 87 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 90 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 91 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes  
a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
and  
means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 92 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes  
means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and  
means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 93 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes  
means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;  
a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and  
means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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